

I claim:

1. A method for using the Internet to facilitate a transaction between a customer and at least one supplier of music scores to discourage illegal copying of music scores,

5 comprising:

associating suppliers 26, 28, 30 of music scores with a music score service unit 18;

a customer 12 contacting a website 16 of the service unit 18

and sending a request signal 19 to the website 16 to obtain a

10 music score 20;

the unit 18 receiving the signal 19 and digitally searching for the music score 20 in a database 22;

when no copy of the music score 20 being available in the database 22, the unit 18 sending request signals 24a-c to the

15 suppliers 26, 28, 30;

the suppliers 26, 28, 30 sending back an affirmation signal 32 to the service 18 when a digital copy 35 of the music score 20 is available from the suppliers;

the service unit 18 receiving the affirmation signal 32;

20 the service unit 18 sending a delivery request signal 41 to the supplier 28;

the supplier 28 sending the digital copy 35 of the music score 20 to the service unit 18; and

the service unit 18 receiving the digital copy 35 of the music

25 score 20 and sending a delivery signal 36 to the customer

including the digital copy 35 of the music score 20;

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 sending the digital copy 35 to the customer 12 when the digital copy 35 is available in the database 22.

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3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the customer 12 pre-paying for the digital copy 35.

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4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 compensating the supplier 28 with the payment amount received from the customer 12 minus a service charge.

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5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 charging the customer 12 a reduced fee or no fee at all when the digital copy 35 is not delivered within a promised time period.

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6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 providing transposition services to the customer 12.

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7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the supplier 28 sending a royalty payment to a copyright control function 33 associated with a copyright owner 34.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further

comprises the service unit 18 sending a charge signal 37 to the customer 12 to request payment of the digital copy 35 and the customer 12 sending a payment signal 39 to the service unit 18.